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ATTORNEY AT LAW

141-15 HOOVER AVENUE
BRIARWOOD, NEW YORK 11435

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303 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 AUG 1998
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Legal Staff
International Division

FAX TRANSMISSION

October 27, 1998

TO: Examiner Jennifer Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner

FAX NUMBER: (703) 308-6459

PHONE NUMBER: (703) 305-9849

FROM: Alex L. Yip

PAGES: 25 including the cover page

MESSAGES:

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application: Schwartz et al.
Serial No. : 08/973,293
PCT No. : PCT/US97/06831
Int. Filing Date : April 23, 1997
Priority Date : April 23, 1996
For : Secure Postage Payment System and
Method

Facsimile Cover Letter

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

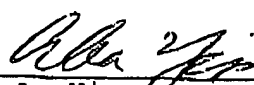
Attention: Examiner Jennifer Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner
International Division
Legal Staff

Sir:

As requested by Examiner Jennifer Bahr, applicant encloses herewith a true copy of the Renewed Submission under 37 CFR 1.42 in the above-identified patent application, which was sent to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by Express Mail on August 11, 1998. A copy of a return postcard acknowledging the receipt by the PCT/PTO of the Renewed Submission on August 11, 1998, and a copy of an Express mail mailing label whose number is indicated on the Renewed Submission are also enclosed.

Please note that a typographical error has been found at page 2, line 9 of the Renewed Submission. The date "June 27, 1997" there should read "June 17, 1997."

Respectfully submitted,


Alex L. Yip, Attorney
PTO Reg. No. 34,759
(718) 297-8182

Date: October 27, 1998
Enclosures

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, BOX PCT

Inventor-Case No. A1SCHWARTZ1-PCT

Stamp of the USPTO acknowledging receipt is requested

Renewed Submission Under 37 CFR 1.42 (including Exhibits 1, 2 & 3)

Serial No. 08/973,293

PCT No. PCT/US97/06831

Express Mail mailing no. EE414180524US

10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 AUG 1998



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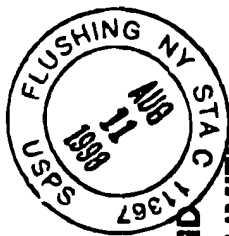
Alex L. Yip
Attorney at Law
141-15 Hoover Avenue
Briarwood, NY 11435

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Label 11-8 July 1997

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application: Schwartz et al.
Serial No. : 08/973,293
PCT No. : PCT/US97/06831
Int. Filing Date : April 23, 1997
Priority Date : April 23, 1996
For : Secure Postage Payment System and Method

RENEWED SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.42Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail" Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10

"Express Mail" Label No. EE414180524US. Date of Deposit Aug. 11, 1998
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Alex L. Yip PTO Req. 34,759
Name of person mailing paper

Alex Yip
Signature of person mailing paper

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT

Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Examiner Jennifer Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner
International Division
Legal Staff

Sir:

In response to a Decision on Petition under 37 CFR 1.42 and 1.44 dated July 31, 1998 in the above-identified application (Exhibit 1), applicant hereby requests that the Decision dismissing, without prejudice, an earlier request for status under 37 CFR 1.42 be reconsidered, and that the application be granted status under 37 CFR 1.42 based on applicant's Response to Invitation to Correct Defects filed on June 17, 1997 with the U.S. Receiving Office.

In a phone conversation with Examiner Jennifer Bahr on August 10, 1998, the undersigned was confirmed

Serial No. 08/973,293

-2-

that the aforementioned Response to Invitation to Correct Defects is missing from the Patent and Trademark Office records. As suggested by Examiner Bahr, a copy of such a Response as filed is enclosed and annexed hereto as Exhibit 2, which is responsive to an Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application (PCT/RO/106) mailed on May 27, 1997. A copy of a return postcard acknowledging the receipt by the PCT/PTO of the Response on June 27, 1997, and a copy of an Express Mail mailing label whose number is indicated on the Response are annexed hereto as Exhibit 3.

In the Response to Invitation to Correct Defects, applicant submitted (i) six sheets of corrected drawing as required, (ii) a copy of a PCT General Power of Attorney under PCT Rule 90.5 by applicant Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc., and (iii) an original PCT Power of Attorney under PCT Rule 90.4 by individual inventors for the U.S. designation, in accordance with PCT Rule 4.15. Both Powers of Attorney authorize the undersigned to represent the respective parties before all the competent International Authorities in connection with the international application.

In particular, in the PCT Power of Attorney under PCT Rule 90.4, Gaye Gardner who is the legal representative of the deceased inventor Gary Gardner signed on behalf of Gary Gardner to effect the necessary power of attorney, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.42.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submitted a properly signed Response which cured the defects noted in the Invitation to Correct Defects in the International

Serial No. 08/973,293

-3-

Application. As such, it is respectfully requested that the present application be granted status under 37 CFR 1.42.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex L. Yip, Attorney
PTO Reg. No. 34,759
(718) 297-8182

Date: August 11, 1998

EXHIBIT
1



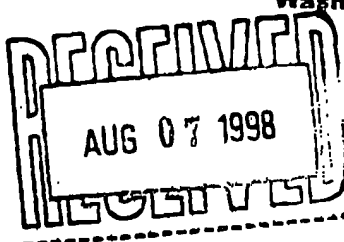
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

United States Receiving Office
United States International Searching Authority
United States International Preliminary Examining
Authority
United States Designated Office
United States Elected Office

Address: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

31 JUL 1998

Alex L. Yip
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 670425
Flushing, New York 11367



In re Application of	:	DECISION ON
SCHWARTZ et al.	:	
Serial No.: 08/973,293	:	PETITION
PCT No.: PCT/US97/06831	:	
Int. Filing Date: 23 April 1997	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.42
Priority Date: 23 April 1996	:	
For: SECURE POSTAGE PAYMENT SYSTEM	:	AND 1.44
AND METHOD	:	

This is a decision on the papers filed 01 December 1997.

BACKGROUND

On 23 April 1997, applicant filed international application PCT/US97/06831, which claimed priority of three earlier United States provisional applications filed 23 April 1996 and a fourth United States provisional application filed on 03 May 1996. Accordingly, the twenty month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired at midnight on 23 December 1997. A copy of the international application was not required because the international application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.

On 27 May 1997, the United States Receiving Office mailed an Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application (PCT/RO/106) indicating that:

- 1) the Request filed 23 April 1997 does not comply with the signature requirements of PCT Rules 4.15 and 90.4, because it was signed by what appears to be an agent/common representative but the international application was not accompanied by a power of attorney appointing him and

-2-

2) the drawing sheets are not numbered in consecutive Arabic numerals and do not comply with the minimum margin requirements.

A review of Patent and Trademark Office records does not indicate that applicant ever provided a properly signed Request to cure the defect noted above.

On 01 December 1997, applicant filed a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage in the United States which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the requisite basic national fee as required by 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), a combined declaration and power of attorney as required under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4) executed by inventors Robert Schwartz, George Brookner, Fetneh Eskandari, Michael Brown, David Mechler and Douglas Heroy and by Gaye Gardner as legal representative of deceased inventor Gary Gardner, and a Fiduciary's Probate Certificate signed by a clerk of the Court of Probate, District of Milford, Connecticut. It is noted that the Fiduciary's Probate Certificate states that it is "NOT VALID WITHOUT COURT OF PROBATE SEAL IMPRESSED." The copy recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 9101, frame 0747 does not show evidence of the seal thereon. Therefore, proof of the authority of Gaye Gardner to act as legal representative for the deceased inventor in compliance with 37 CFR 1.44 requires submission of a Fiduciary's Probate Certificate which shows that the court of probate seal was impressed thereon.

CONCLUSION

This application cannot be granted status under 37 CFR 1.42 until applicant has submitted a properly signed Request which cures the defect noted in the 27 May 1997 Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application (PCT/RO/106). For the above reasons, the request for status under 37 CFR 1.42 is presently DISMISSED without prejudice.

If reconsideration of the merits of the status under 37 CFR 1.42 is desired, applicant is required to correct the above-noted defect within a time period of ONE (1) MONTH from the mail date of this decision. THIS PERIOD FOR RESPONSE MAY BE EXTENDED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 5 MONTHS UNDER EITHER 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT. Any reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Submission Under 37 CFR 1.42."

-3-

It is noted that proof of the authority of the legal representative in compliance with 37 CFR 1.44 MUST be submitted before the grant of a patent.

Please direct any further correspondence with respect to this matter to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231, and address the contents of the letter to the attention of the International Division, Legal Staff.



FOR
Richard B. Lazarus
Supervisory Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office



Jennifer Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office
Telephone: (703) 305-9849
Facsimile: (703) 308-6459

EXHIBIT

2

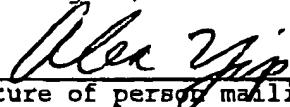
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc.
Appln. No.: PCT/US97/06831
Filed : April 23, 1997
For : Secure Postage Payment System and Method

RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO CORRECT DEFECTSCertificate of Mailing by "Express Mail" Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10

"Express Mail" Label No. EG306863912US. Date of Deposit June 17, 1997
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Alex L. Yip PTO Reg. 34,759
Name of person mailing paper



Signature of person mailing paper

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Attention: RO/US

Sir:

In response to the Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application mailed May 27, 1997, enclosed are six (6) sheets of new, corrected drawing including Figs. 1, 2, 3A, 3B and 4-8 for the above-identified application. Also enclosed are a copy of General Power of Attorney by applicant, and an original Power of Attorney by applicants/inventors for the United States designation.

Respectfully submitted,


Alex L. Yip, Attorney
PTO Reg. No. 34,759
(718) 297-8182

Date: June 17, 1997

Enclosures

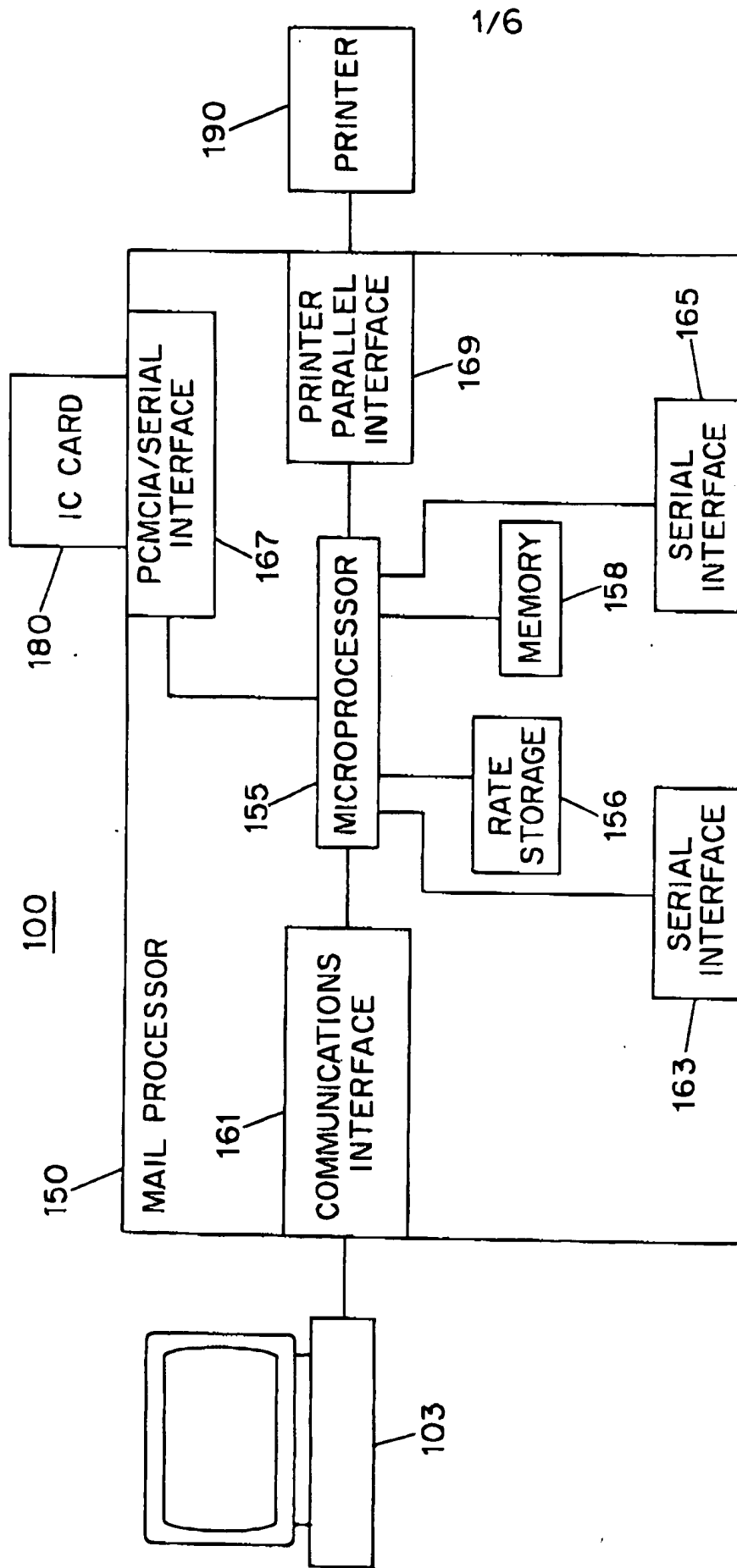


FIG. 1

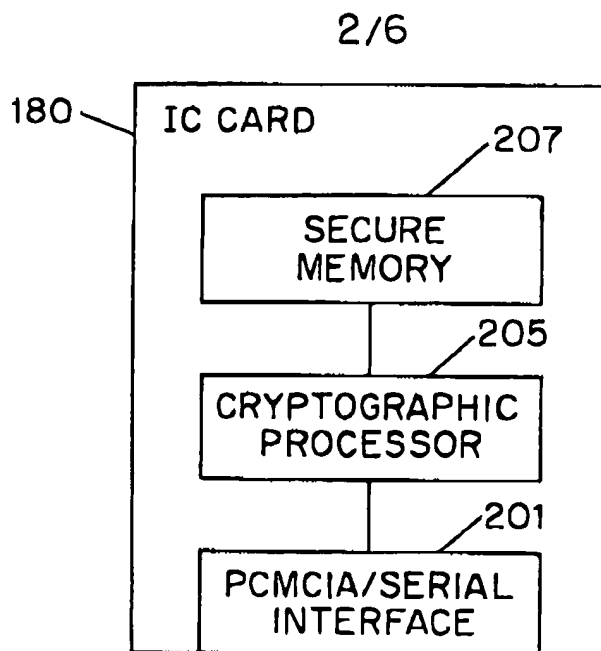


FIG. 2

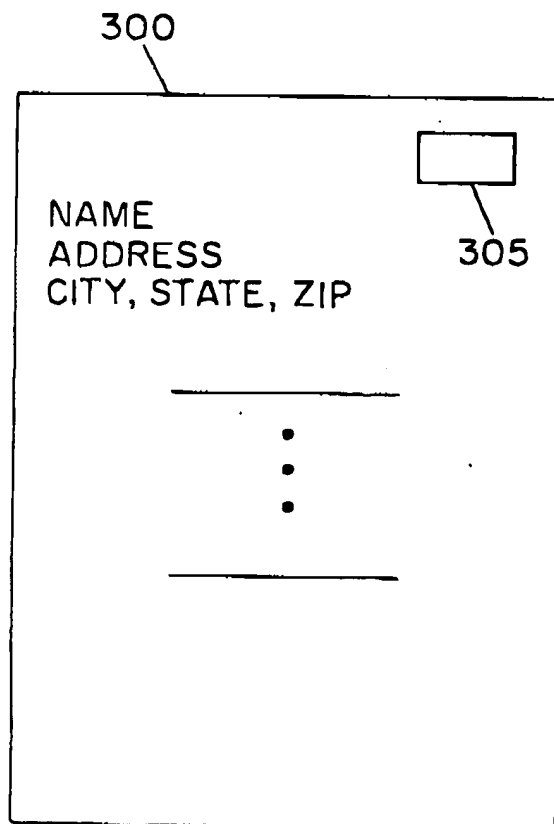


FIG. 3A

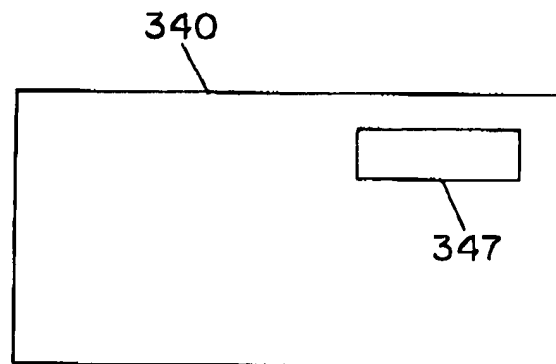


FIG. 3B

3/6

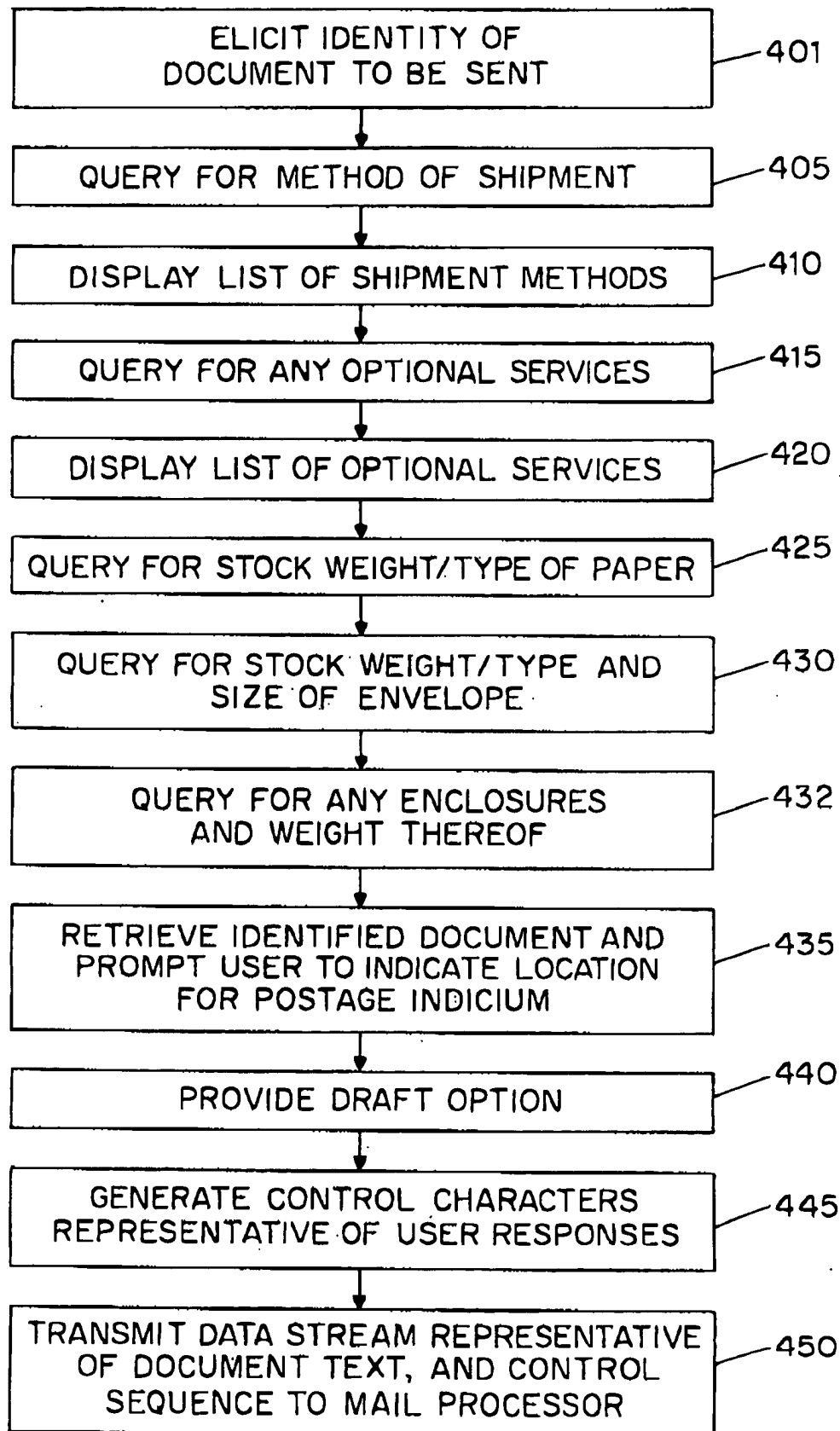


FIG. 4

4/6

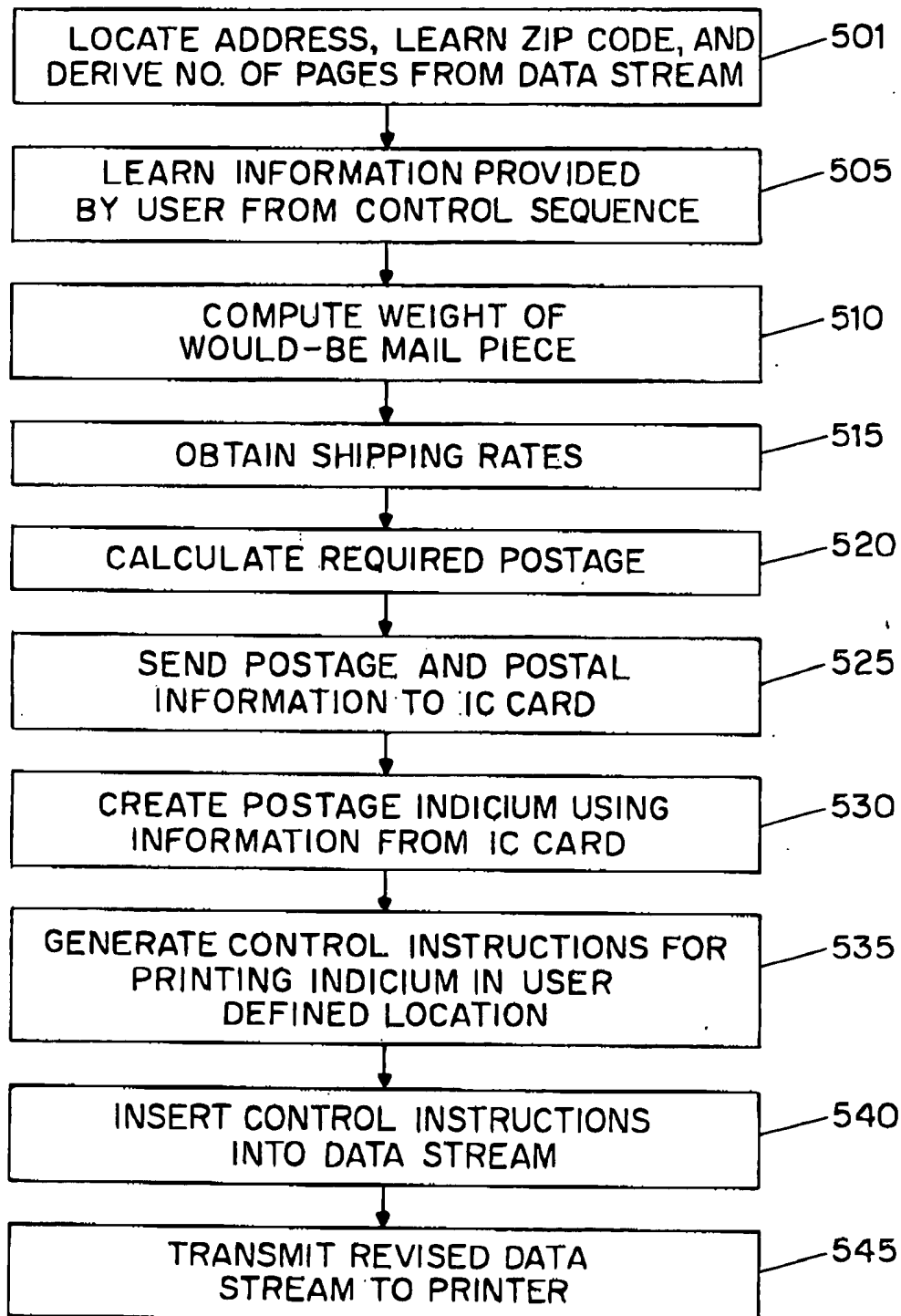


FIG. 5

5/6

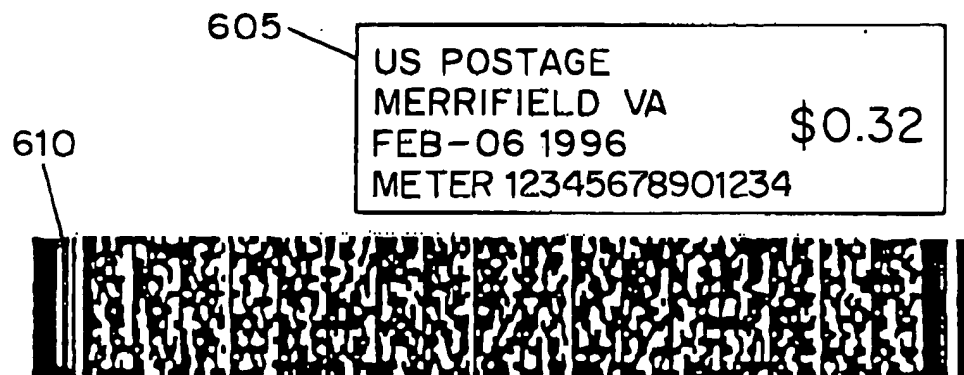


FIG. 6

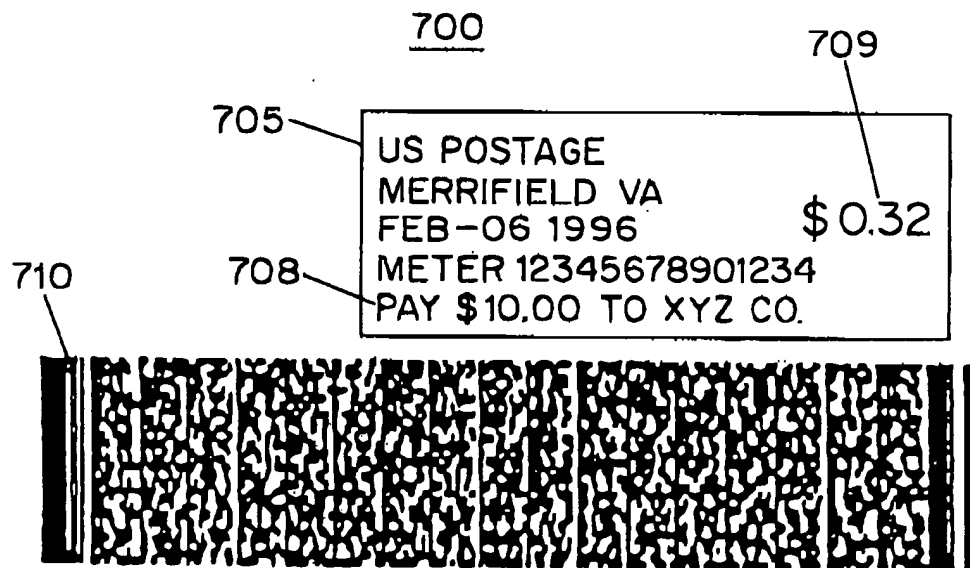


FIG. 7

6/6

PAYER INFORMATION	801a
PAYEE INFORMATION	801b
TRANSACTION AMOUNT	801c
FUNDS TRANSFER OR CASH	801d
PIN	801e
TRANSACTION SEQUENCE NUMBER	801f
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	801g
POSTAL DATA	801h
DIGITAL SIGNATURE	801i

FIG. 8

PCT
GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
under PCT Rule 90.5

Applicant:

Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc. of 19 Forest Parkway,
P.O. Box 858, Shelton, Connecticut 06484, United States
of America

hereby appoints the following person as an
attorney/agent:

Yip, Alex L., Attorney at Law, of 141-15 Hoover Avenue,
Briarwood, New York 11435, United States of America

to represent applicant before all the competent
International Authorities in connection with any and all
international applications filed by applicant with the
United States Office as receiving Office and to make or
receive payments on behalf of applicant.

Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc.

Date:

5/22/97

By:

Name:

YIP, ALEX
(Last, First)

Title:

S.R. V.P. SALES & MARKETING

PCT
POWER OF ATTORNEY
under PCT Rule 90.4

The undersigned:

Schwartz, Robert of 191 Lindon Avenue, Branford, Connecticut 06405, United States of America; Brookner, George of 11 Surrey Drive, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851, United States of America; Eskandari, Fetneh of 166 Dove Lane, Middletown, Connecticut 06457, United States of America; Brown, Michael of 84 Field Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851, United States of America; Mechler, David of 34 Quaker Farms Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478, United States of America; Gardner, Gaye, legal representative of Gardner, Gary (deceased), of 43611 Old Harbour, Bermuda Dunes, California 92201, United States of America; and Heroy, Douglas at P.O. Box 398, Meriden, New Hampshire 03770, United States of America

hereby appoint the following person as an attorney/agent:

Yip, Alex L., Attorney at Law, of 141-15 Hoover Avenue, Briarwood, New York 11435, United States of America

to represent the undersigned before all the competent International Authorities in connection with the international application identified below:

Title of the invention: Secure Postage Payment System and Method

Attorney's/agent's file reference: A1SCHWARTZ1

International application number: PCT/US 97/06831

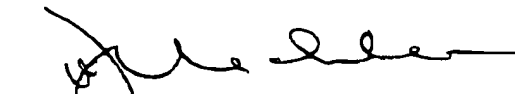
filed with the United States Office as receiving Office and to make or receive payments on behalf of the undersigned.

Date:


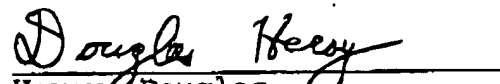
5/29/97

Robert G. Schwartz
Robert, Schwartz

-2-

Date: 5/28/97
Brookner, GeorgeDate: 5/28/97
Eskandari, FetnehDate: 5/28/97
Brown, MichaelDate: 5/28/97
Mechler, David

Gardner, Gary (deceased)

Date: 6-9-97By: 
Gardner, Gaye
Legal Representative of
Gardner, Gary, deceasedDate: 5/22/97
Heroy, Douglas

3
EXHIBIT

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS , BOX PCT

Inventor-Case No. A1SCHWARTZI-PCT

Stamp of the USPTO acknowledging receipt is requested

1. Response to Invitation to Correct Defects
2. Copy of PCT General Power of Attorney by applicant
3. Original Power of Attorney by applicants/inventors - 2 pgs
4. Six (6) sheets of formal drawing

Application No. PCT/US97/06831

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Attorney at Law
141-15 Hoover Avenue
Briarwood, NY 11435

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application: Schwartz et al.
Serial No. : 08/973,293
PCT No. : PCT/US97/06831
Int. Filing Date : April 23, 1997 28 OCT 1998
Priority Date : April 23, 1996
For : Secure Postage Payment System and Method

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International Division

RENEWED SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.42

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Alex L. Yip PTO Reg. 34,759
Name of person mailing paper

Alex Yip
Signature of person mailing paper

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Examiner Jennifer Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner
International Division
Legal Staff

Sir:

In response to a Decision on Petition under 37 CFR 1.42 and 1.44 dated July 31, 1998 in the above-identified application (Exhibit 1), applicant hereby requests that the Decision dismissing, without prejudice, an earlier request for status under 37 CFR 1.42 be reconsidered, and that the application be granted status under 37 CFR 1.42 based on applicant's Response to Invitation to Correct Defects filed on June 17, 1997 with the U.S. Receiving Office.

In a phone conversation with Examiner Jennifer Bahr on August 10, 1998, the undersigned was confirmed

that the aforementioned Response to Invitation to Correct Defects is missing from the Patent and Trademark Office records. As suggested by Examiner Bahr, a copy of such a Response as filed is enclosed and annexed hereto as Exhibit 2, which is responsive to an Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application (PCT/RO/106) mailed on May 27, 1997. A copy of a return postcard acknowledging the receipt by the PCT/PTO of the Response on June 27, 1997, and a copy of an Express Mail mailing label whose number is indicated on the Response are annexed hereto as Exhibit 3.

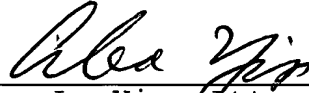
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In particular, in the PCT Power of Attorney under PCT Rule 90.4, Gaye Gardner who is the legal representative of the deceased inventor Gary Gardner signed on behalf of Gary Gardner to effect the necessary power of attorney, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.42.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submitted a properly signed Response which cured the defects noted in the Invitation to Correct Defects in the International

Application. As such, it is respectfully requested that the present application be granted status under 37 CFR 1.42.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex L. Yip, Attorney
PTO Reg. No. 34,759
(718) 297-8182

Date: August 11, 1998

EXHIBIT 1



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

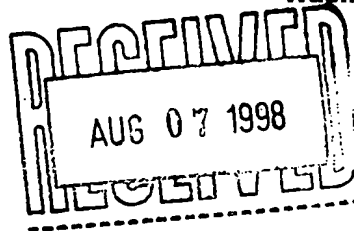
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United States International Searching Authority
United States International Preliminary Examining
Authority
United States Designated Office**

United States Elected Office

**Address: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231**

31 JUL 1998

Alex L. Yip
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 670425
Flushing, New York 11367



In re Application of	:	DECISION ON
SCHWARTZ et al.	:	
Serial No.: 08/973,293	:	PETITION
PCT No.: PCT/US97/06831	:	
Int. Filing Date: 23 April 1997	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.42
Priority Date: 23 April 1996	:	
For: SECURE POSTAGE PAYMENT SYSTEM	:	AND 1.44
AND METHOD	:	

This is a decision on the papers filed 01 December 1997.

BACKGROUND

On 23 April 1997, applicant filed international application PCT/US97/06831, which claimed priority of three earlier United States provisional applications filed 23 April 1996 and a fourth United States provisional application filed on 03 May 1996. Accordingly, the twenty month period for paying the basic national fee in the United States expired at midnight on 23 December 1997. A copy of the international application was not required because the international application was filed with the United States Receiving Office.

On 27 May 1997, the United States Receiving Office mailed an Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application (PCT/RO/106) indicating that:

- 1) the Request filed 23 April 1997 does not comply with the signature requirements of PCT Rules 4.15 and 90.4, because it was signed by what appears to be an agent/common representative but the international application was not accompanied by a power of attorney appointing him and

2) the drawing sheets are not numbered in consecutive Arabic numerals and do not comply with the minimum margin requirements.

A review of Patent and Trademark Office records does not indicate that applicant ever provided a properly signed Request to cure the defect noted above.

On 01 December 1997, applicant filed a transmittal letter for entry into the national stage in the United States which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the requisite basic national fee as required by 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), a combined declaration and power of attorney as required under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4) executed by inventors Robert Schwartz, George Brookner, Fetneh Eskandari, Michael Brown, David Mechler and Douglas Heroy and by Gaye Gardner as legal representative of deceased inventor Gary Gardner, and a Fiduciary's Probate Certificate signed by a clerk of the Court of Probate, District of Milford, Connecticut. It is noted that the Fiduciary's Probate Certificate states that it is "NOT VALID WITHOUT COURT OF PROBATE SEAL IMPRESSED." The copy recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 9101, frame 0747 does not show evidence of the seal thereon. Therefore, proof of the authority of Gaye Gardner to act as legal representative for the deceased inventor in compliance with 37 CFR 1.44 requires submission of a Fiduciary's Probate Certificate which shows that the court of probate seal was impressed thereon.

CONCLUSION

This application cannot be granted status under 37 CFR 1.42 until applicant has submitted a properly signed Request which cures the defect noted in the 27 May 1997 Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application (PCT/RO/106). For the above reasons, the request for status under 37 CFR 1.42 is presently DISMISSED without prejudice.


If reconsideration of the merits of the status under 37 CFR 1.42 is desired, applicant is required to correct the above-noted defect within a time period of ONE (1) MONTH from the mail date of this decision. THIS PERIOD FOR RESPONSE MAY BE EXTENDED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 5 MONTHS UNDER EITHER 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b). FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT. Any reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Submission Under 37 CFR 1.42."

Serial.No. 08/973,293
~~162,093~~

-3-

It is noted that proof of the authority of the legal representative in compliance with 37 CFR 1.44 MUST be submitted before the grant of a patent.

Please direct any further correspondence with respect to this matter to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231, and address the contents of the letter to the attention of the International Division, Legal Staff.

 FOR
Richard B. Lazarus
Supervisory Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office



Jennifer Bahr
PCT Legal Examiner
PCT Legal Office
Telephone: (703) 305-9849
Facsimile: (703) 308-6459

EXHIBIT 2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

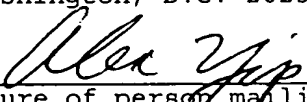
Applicant : Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc.
Appln. No.: PCT/US97/06831
Filed : April 23, 1997
For : Secure Postage Payment System and Method

RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO CORRECT DEFECTS

Certificate of Mailing by "Express Mail" Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Alex L. Yip PTO Reg. 34,759
Name of person mailing paper



Signature of person mailing paper

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Attention: RO/US

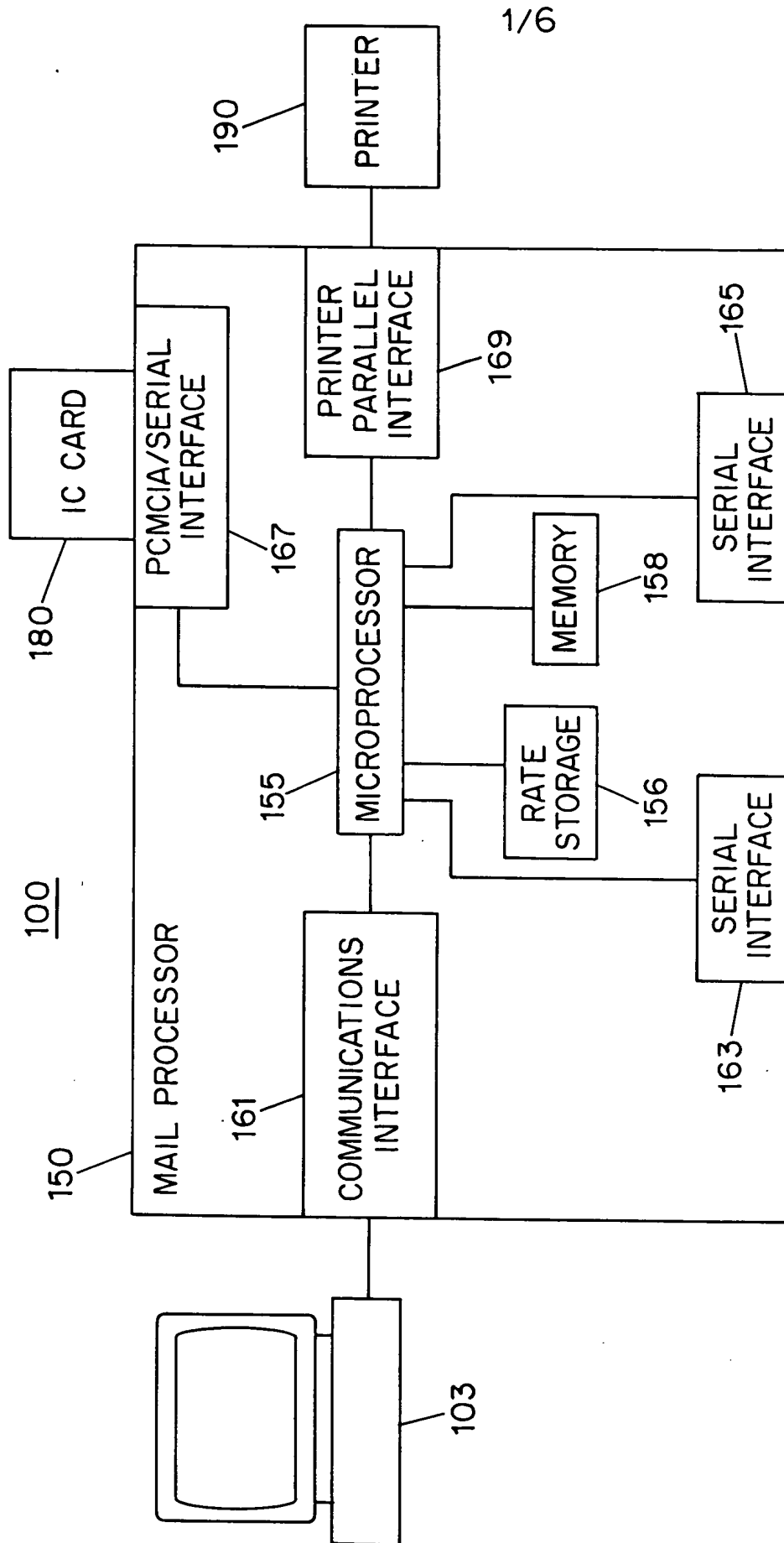
Sir:

In response to the Invitation to Correct Defects in the International Application mailed May 27, 1997, enclosed are six (6) sheets of new, corrected drawing including Figs. 1, 2, 3A, 3B and 4-8 for the above-identified application. Also enclosed are a copy of General Power of Attorney by applicant, and an original Power of Attorney by applicants/inventors for the United States designation.

Respectfully submitted,


Alex L. Yip, Attorney
PTO Reg. No. 34,759
(718) 297-8182

Date: June 17, 1997
Enclosures



1/6

FIG. 1

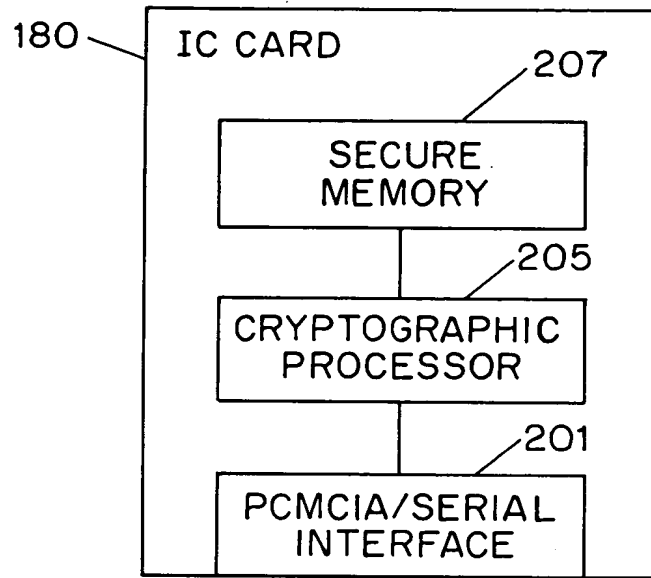


FIG. 2

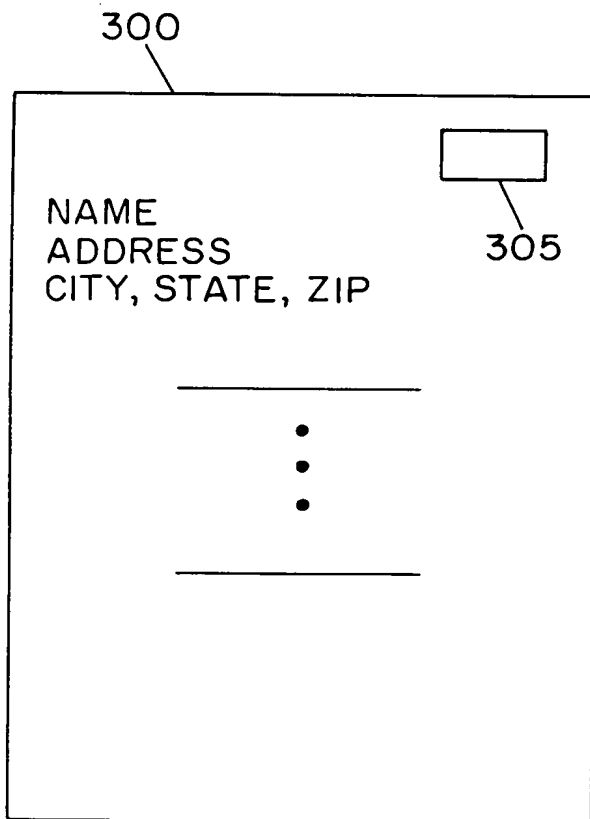


FIG. 3A

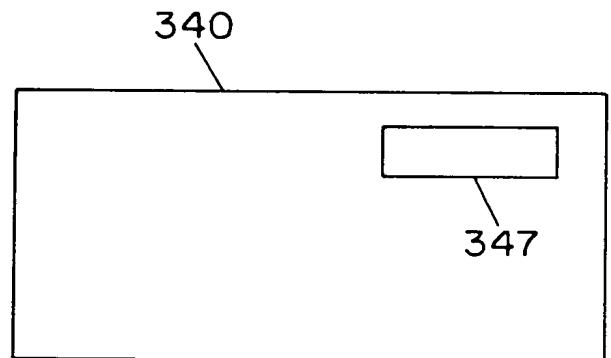


FIG. 3B

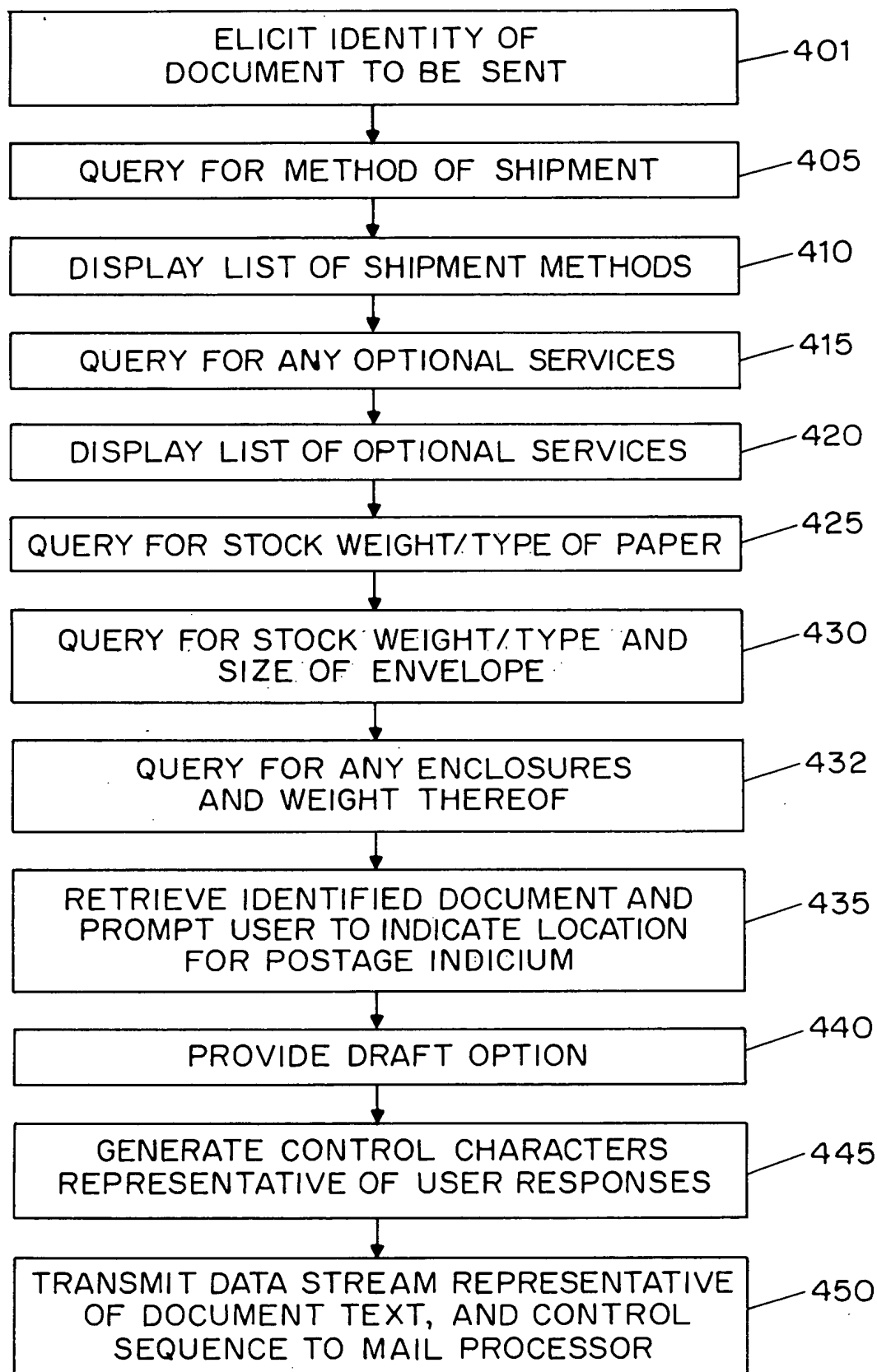


FIG. 4

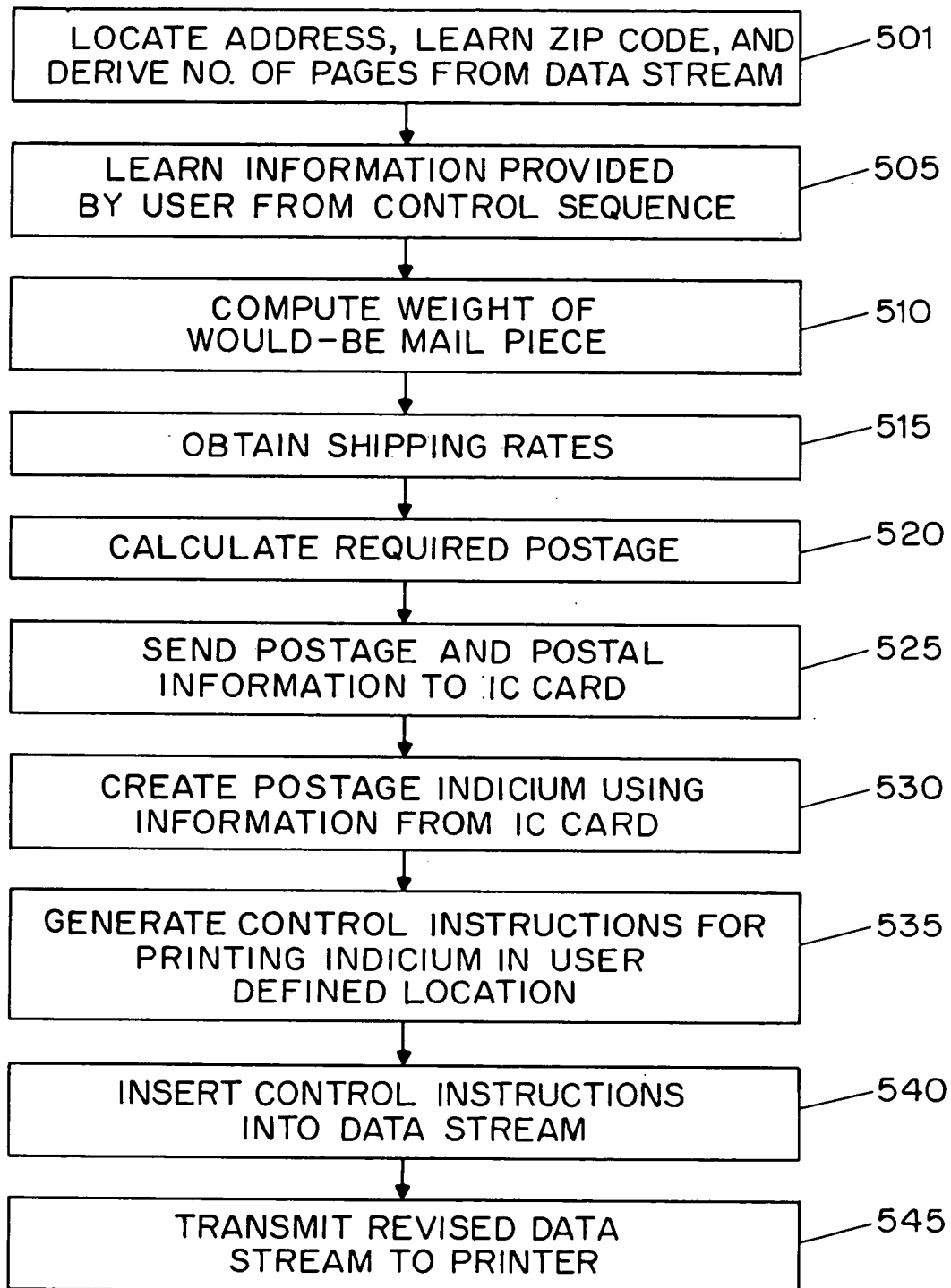


FIG. 5

5/6

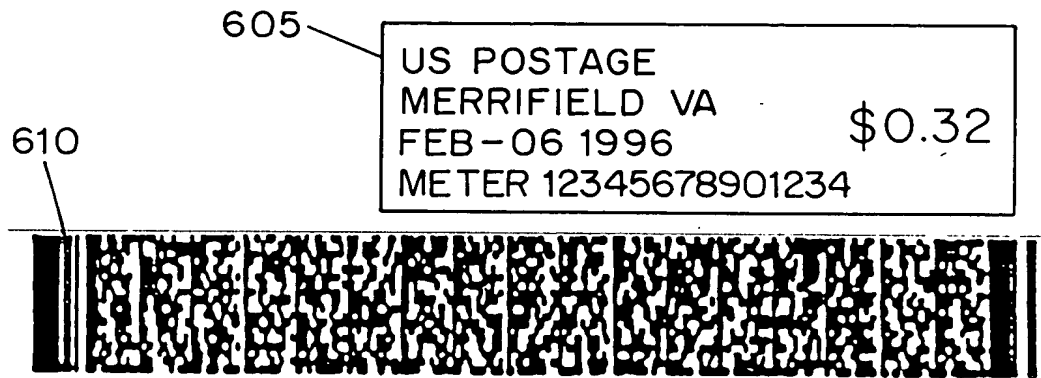


FIG. 6

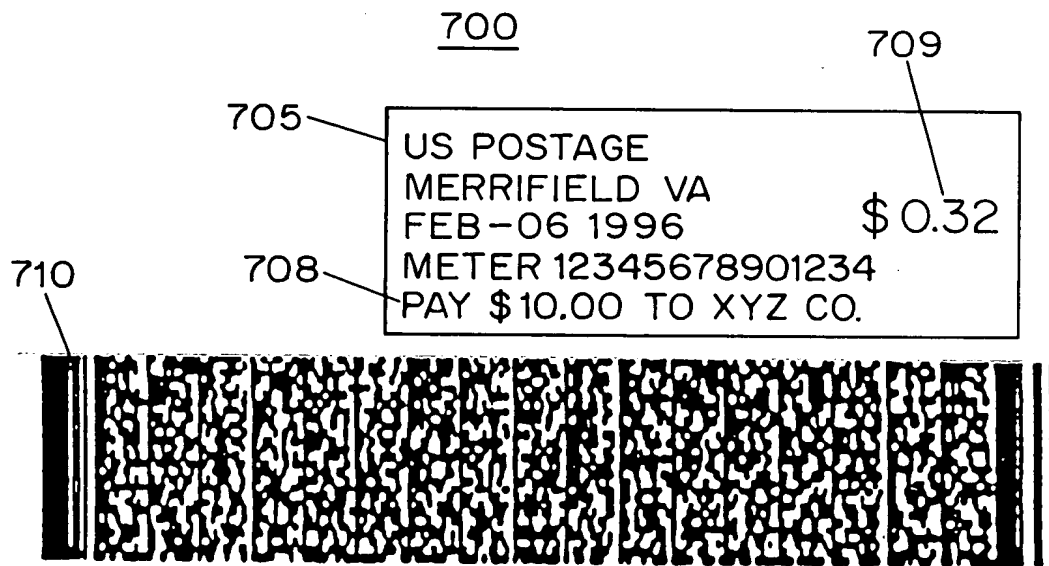


FIG. 7

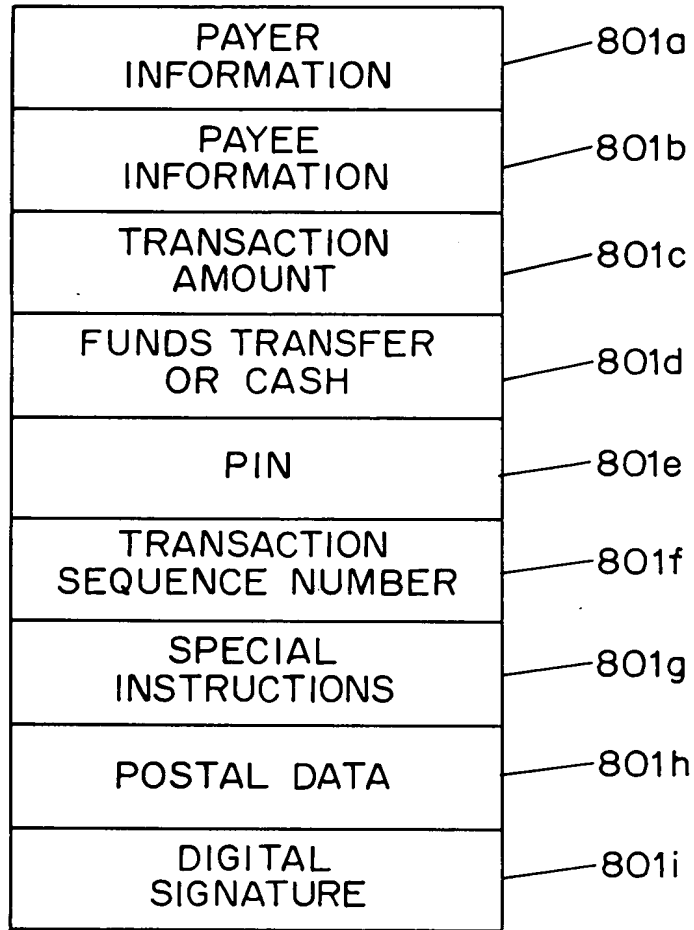


FIG. 8

PCT
GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
under PCT Rule 90.5

Applicant:

Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc. of 19 Forest Parkway,
P.O. Box 858, Shelton, Connecticut 60484, United States
of America

hereby appoints the following person as an
attorney/agent:

Yip, Alex L., Attorney at Law, of 141-15 Hoover Avenue,
Briarwood, New York 11435, United States of America

to represent applicant before all the competent
International Authorities in connection with any and all
international applications filed by applicant with the
United States Office as receiving Office and to make or
receive payments on behalf of applicant.

Ascom Hasler Mailing Systems, Inc.

Date:

5/22/97

By:


Name: VAVRA, JOHN
(Last, First)

Title: SA. V. P. SALES & MARKETING

PCT
POWER OF ATTORNEY
under PCT Rule 90.4

The undersigned:

Schwartz, Robert of 191 Lindon Avenue, Branford, Connecticut 06405, United States of America; Brookner, George of 11 Surrey Drive, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851, United States of America; Eskandari, Fetneh of 166 Dove Lane, Middletown, Connecticut 06457, United States of America; Brown, Michael of 84 Field Street, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851, United States of America; Mechler, David of 34 Quaker Farms Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478, United States of America; Gardner, Gaye, legal representative of Gardner, Gary (deceased), of 43611 Old Harbour, Bermuda Dunes, California 92201, United States of America; and Heroy, Douglas at P.O. Box 398, Meriden, New Hampshire 03770, United States of America

hereby appoint the following person as an attorney/agent:

Yip, Alex L., Attorney at Law, of 141-15 Hoover Avenue, Briarwood, New York 11435, United States of America

to represent the undersigned before all the competent International Authorities in connection with the international application identified below:

Title of the invention: Secure Postage Payment System and Method

Attorney's/agent's file reference: A1SCHWARTZ1

International application number: PCT/US 97/06831

filed with the United States Office as receiving Office and to make or receive payments on behalf of the undersigned.

Date: 5/29/97

Robert G. Schwartz
Robert, Schwartz

Date: 5/28/97

George Brookner
Brookner, George

Date: 5/28/97

Fetneh Eskandari
Eskandari, Fetneh

Date: 5/28/97

Michael Brown
Brown, Michael

Date: 5/28/97

David Mechler
Mechler, David

Gardner, Gary (deceased)

Date: 6-9-97

By: Gaye Gardner
Gardner, Gaye
Legal Representative of
Gardner, Gary, deceased

Date: 5/22/97

Douglas Heroy
Heroy, Douglas

EXHIBIT 3

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS , BOX PCT

Inventor-Case No. A1SCHWARTZ1-PCT

Stamp of the USPTO acknowledging receipt is requested

1. Response to Invitation to Correct Defects
2. Copy of PCT General Power of Attorney by applicant
3. Original Power of Attorney by applicants/inventors - 2 pgs
4. Six (6) sheets of formal drawing

Application No. PCT/US97/06831

89 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 JUN 1997

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Alex L. Yip
 Attorney at Law
 141-15 Hoover Avenue
 Briarwood, NY 11435
 Phone (718) 297-8182

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